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ABSTRACT

The Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Educational Research at the University of Pittsburgh afforded the opportunity for two selected participants to engage in intensive study which expanded their capabilities in the area of research methodology. In addition, the program provided them with extensive research experience. A plan for individual study was developed which included advanced work in educational statistics, research design, and computer applications. The actual research experiences were associated with research currently in progress in the Individually Prescribed Instruction Project and in the Learning Strategies Project. The seminars and course work which the participants selected were in the Department of Education Research and in Computer Science. Participants were Dr. William D. Hedges, chairman, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Missouri, and Dr. Sigmund Tobias, professor of educational psychology, City University of New York. (A list of courses and seminars taken by each participant are included.) (Author/RT)

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FINAL REPORT

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Educational Research

September 1, 1968 to August 31, 1969

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and

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General Description

The Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Educational Research at the University of Pittsburgh afforded the opportunity for two selected participants to engage in intensive study which expanded their capabilities in the area of research methodology. In addition, the program provided them with extensive research experience. A plan for individual study was developed which included advanced work in educational statistics, research design, and computer applications. The actual research experiences were associated with research currently in progress in the Individually Prescribed Instruction Project and in the Learning Strategies Project here at the Learning Research and Development Center. The seminars and course work which the participants selected were in the Department of Educational Research and in Computer Science.

Objectives

The objectives of this postdoctoral training program were to expand the participants abilities in research methodology and provide an opportunity to engage in research in a supervised situation. In the course of the year the two participants took part in advanced graduate seminars, a year-long course in multivariate data analysis, and independent study with faculty in the Department of Educational Research and at the Learning Research and Development Center.

Selection of Participants

Two participants were selected from the 25 who indicated an interest in studying here at the University of Pittsburgh. The criteria for selection included: (1) research competence demonstrated through publications and positions held; (2) age (time for growth); and (3) correspondence of interest of the candidates with the experiences available here at the University of Pittsburgh. The following two were selected and participated in the 12 months' program: Dr. William D. Hedges, Chairman, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Missouri and Dr. Sigmund Tobias, Professor of Educational Psychology, City University of New York. Both had extensive research experience in psychology and education. Both were interested in the problems associated with individualization of instruction and both wanted to extend their knowledge of statistical analysis in its applications in educational research. The University of Pittsburgh seemed to be a unique location for them to accomplish those goals.

Program

The following is a summary of the programs designed for these two participants for the academic year. In addition, they both indicated that they felt they gained as much from being in this research and development environment as they did from the more formal aspects of the program.

Hedges

Course work:

1. Computer Sciences 1 and 150. The purpose of these courses was to gain a basic competency in the use of the computer and in programming languages.
2. Seminar in Computer Assisted Instruction with Robert Glaser. Coming after the basic programming courses they provided a general survey of this rapidly developing field.
3. Seminar in Computer Managed Instruction with William Cooley. A consideration of the current research being conducted in connection with our Individually Prescribed Instruction Project.

Attended LRDC's seminars on current research in progress especially related to IPI.

Visited the U.S. Naval Academy to observe their research and development in CAI and made several visits to our local experimental school projects.

Pursued computer applications in statistical instruction as independent study with William Cooley.

Tobias

Course work:

1. Educational Research 336 and 337, Multivariate Analysis. This was a year-long course in multivariate analysis including the computer lab

in which these techniques were applied to data which Tobias had brought with him from New York.

2. Seminar in Computer Assisted Instruction with Robert Glaser.
3. Seminar in Computer Managed Instruction with William Cooley.

Research on Aptitude Treatment Interactions in Individualized Instruction Contexts. This experience allowed Tobias to pursue his research interests and try to determine whether it is possible to identify instructional treatment differences which depend upon individual differences variables.